

National Forum on Contaminants in Fish

San Diego, California

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U.S. EPA, Chicago

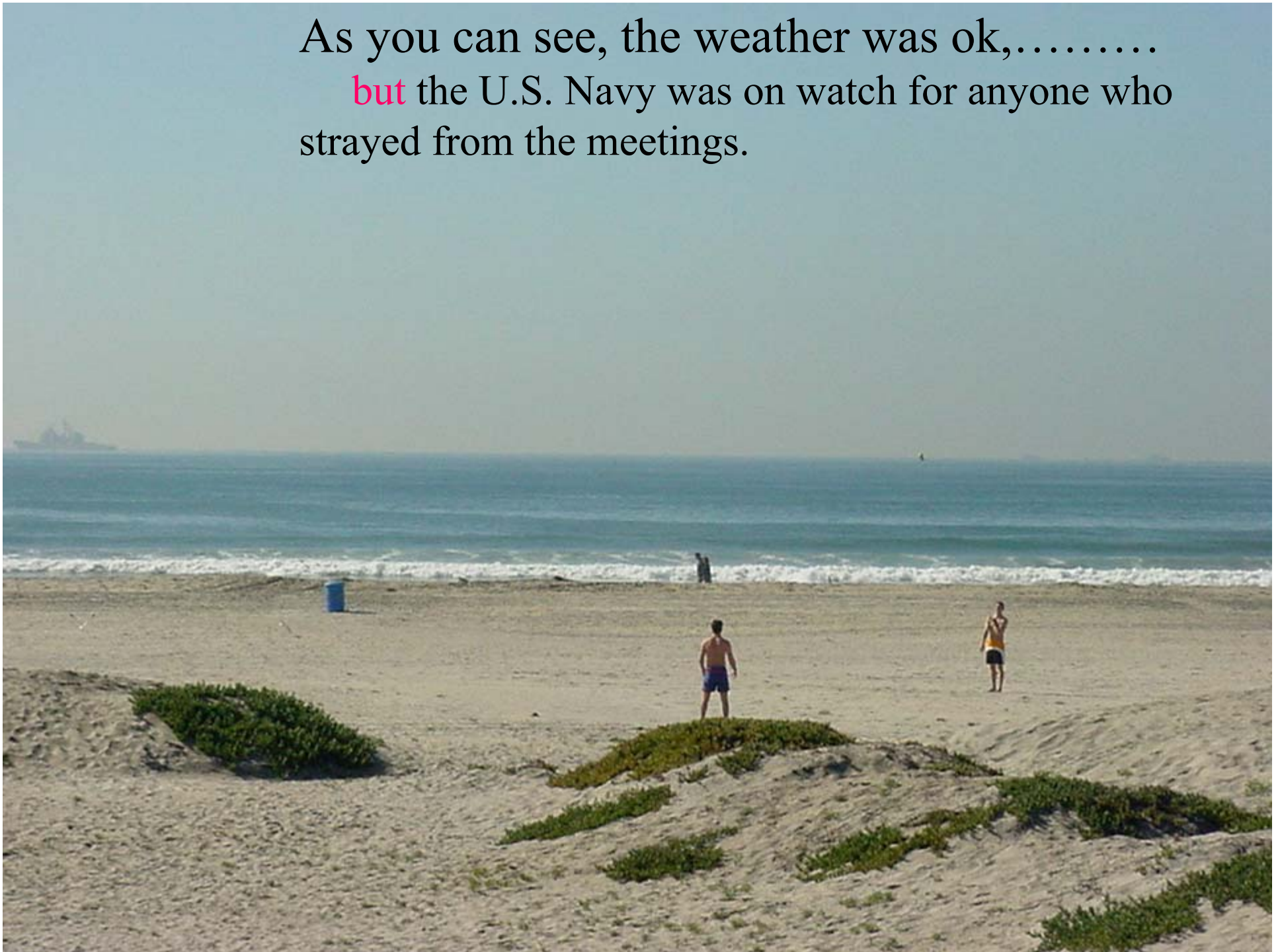


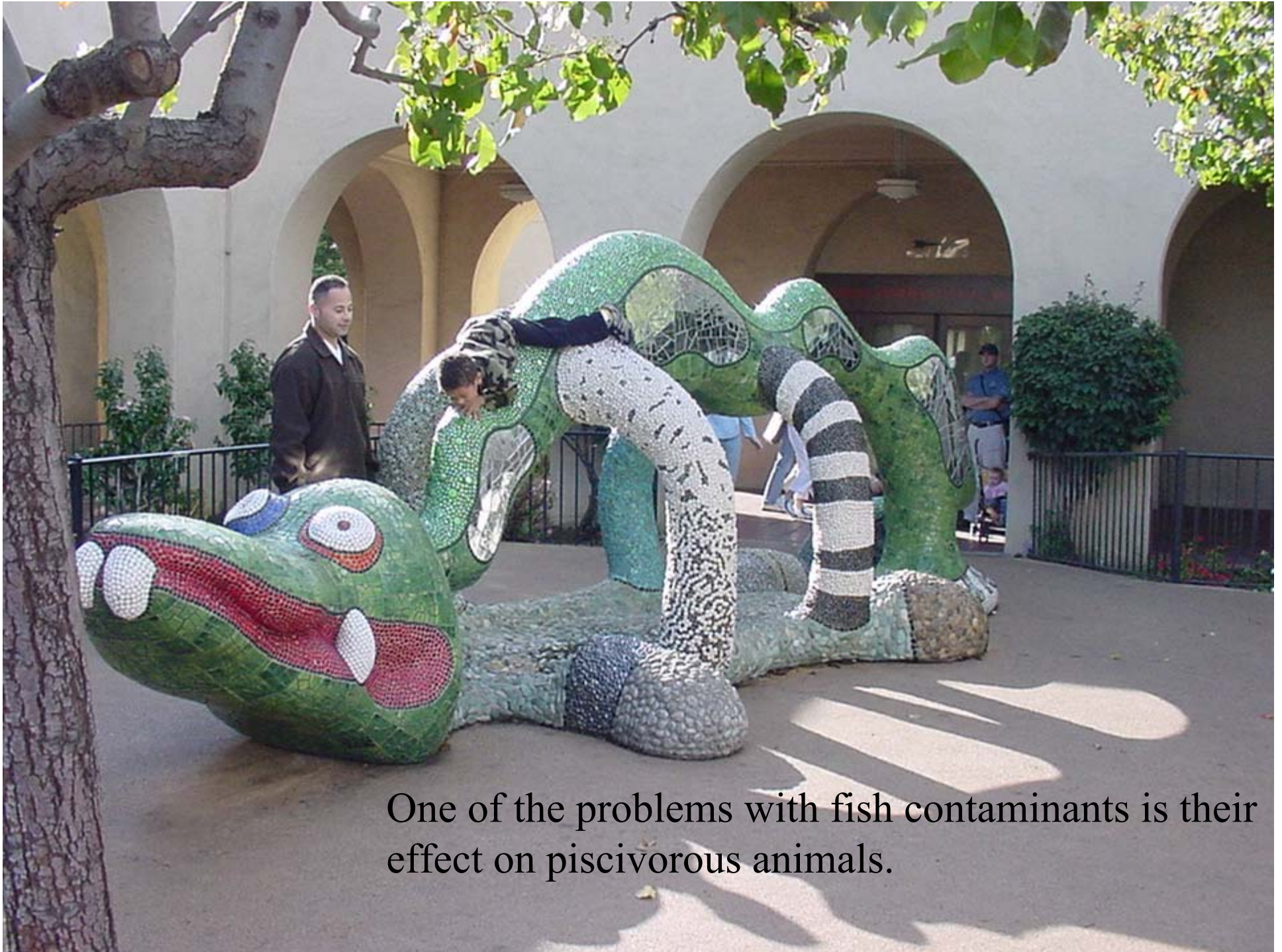
California Grey Whales Were Migrating.

We didn't see them.



As you can see, the weather was ok,.....
but the U.S. Navy was on watch for anyone who
strayed from the meetings.





One of the problems with fish contaminants is their effect on piscivorous animals.

Forum Highlights

Mercury in Commercial Fish – The Long Anticipated EPA/FDA Joint Advisory

More mercury data being collected by FDA, the states and some public interest groups.

A number of states are now adding advice on commercially purchased fish in their Fish Consumption Advisories

Wisconsin and Minnesota have been among the leaders

More states across the nation are putting serious resources into mercury monitoring and development of advice.

New Fish Contaminant Models Are Being Compiled

At the Regional Breakout Session, Great Lakes States were addressed by two researchers who have, independently, been developing models from our data, which may make it easier to extend advice to sizes and species that are not sampled.

New Mercury Sampling and Analytical Methods

At the Regional Breakout Session, we discussed emerging mercury procedures that might make the collection and analysis of fish tissue data much easier.

Fish Contaminants of Emerging Concern

California researchers are looking at **PBDEs** in humans and finding them:

- Levels in women in the U.S. exceed those in Europe by 10 to 40 fold.
- In indoor and outdoor air, home and office dust (high), rivers, sewage sludge
- Levels have been increasing - Increased 2X to 3X in Striped Bass since 1997
- In 7% of individuals, PBDEs have exceeded PCB levels

National Study of Contaminants in Lake Fish Tissue

Sampling is now completed. Thanks to all the State and Tribal folks who helped.

Year 3 data are soon to be distributed to state contacts for verification of details

Year 1, and soon, Year 2 data will have been released.

The Office of Water is adding analysis for PBDEs to the last year's data. That's all the money will allow, but it will give us some information on distribution.